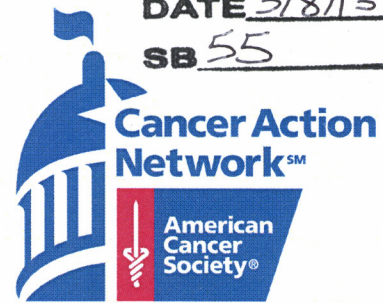


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Linda Wetzel
Montana Cancer Survivor

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EXHIBIT 2
DATE 3/8/13
SB 55



Just a couple of weeks before Christmas 2004, Linda Wetzel was diagnosed with Stage IV B-cell Lymphoma through her entire body, an aggressive mass had spread around her abdomen and compromised her left kidney, which would require immediate surgery to save, and it had metastasized to her bone marrow.

A day later, she had that surgery to save her kidney. When she finally met with her oncologist he explained the severity of her diagnosis saying; "the only place on the scans where they found nothing was her brain".

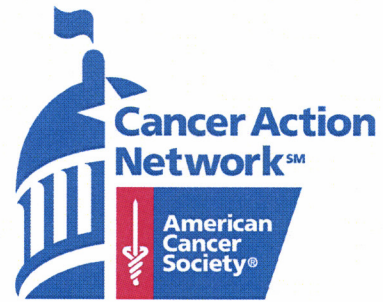


Linda Wetzel, Warrior & Cancer Survivor

Linda responded with a smile; "Anybody who knows me could have told you that." That was Dr. Cobb's first indication of the spirit inside Linda and how she would face the fight for her life.

With the Cancer so advanced, Linda volunteered for an aggressive experimental treatment. On January 10, 2005, her first treatment, she had an extremely adverse reaction, what should have taken eight hours took two days to complete. Linda says "it was like that ugly cancer monster wanted to fight back with a vengeance and was screaming; how you dare attack me with this insidious treatment. I have had months of free reign and do not plan on making this fight easy." That day's treatment (as were many) was unbearable but necessary to be the victor of that first battle in the war to save her life....clearly that cancer had no idea who it was dealing with.; and after six months of grueling treatment, Linda was in remission.

Then, nine months later the doctor said those words: "Linda, its back". The fight was back on; she stared the doctor in the eye and said what I need to do to beat this thing.



After an even more aggressive chemotherapy, which required overnights in the hospital and a few transfusions, she went to Denver for two months to use her own stem cells for a life saving transplant...two terribly agonizing and tough months-- with the greatest care by the doctors and nurses... and Linda is in remission today.

Throughout her ordeal, Linda faced the challenges with her head up and her eyes on the horizon; when they found out she was sick, Linda was "let go" from her job and lost her employer paid health insurance. She had to take out loans to pay for her COBRA which was \$800 a month by the time it expired. She was then faced with being uninsurable, with no plans to cover her if she wasn't eligible for Medicaid or Medicare, and while she battled cancer, her son, was fighting in Iraq.

Linda Wetzel has clawed, kicked, and scratched her way through the last four years. Today, even as her son has been redeployed to Afghanistan...she is a Legislative Ambassador for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. She sends emails, makes phone calls, and visits the Capitol in Helena to work with other survivors, caregivers, and advocates to make Cancer a top priority, so that others like her will be able to focus on fighting cancer and not their employers and insurance companies.

Linda doesn't claim to be special. She knows that others like her have battled cancer and lost. But she fought back, and surely if one person can rise up to battle cancer, then a nation can rise up and defeat it.

March 7, 2013

Rep. Howard, Chair
Human Services
Montana House of Representatives
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400



Dear Chairman Howard and Members of the House Human Services Committee:

My name is Linda Wetzel and I am a six-year cancer survivor. I regret that I am unable to present my testimony in person today so you can see for yourself the miracle of clinical trials. I am alive today because I had the opportunity to participate in six, count them six cancer clinical trials.

I am asking you to support SB55 because all cancer survivors should be afforded the choice of participating in a cancer clinical trial or trials as I did.

Imagine my disbelief, fear, and confusion when just a couple of weeks before Christmas 2004, I was diagnosed with Stage IV B-cell Lymphoma. This cancer was found throughout my entire body. An aggressive mass had spread around my abdomen and compromised her left kidney, which would require immediate surgery to save. It had metastasized to my bone marrow.

A day later, I had that surgery to save my kidney. When I met with my oncologist he explained the severity of my diagnosis saying, "The only place on the scans where they found nothing was in my brain." I responded with a smile; "Anybody who knows me could have told you that." That was Dr. Cobb's first indication of my spirit inside and how determined I was to face this fight of for my life.

Not often are cancer-patients who are considered "terminal" allowed to take part in cancer clinical trials. In fact the vast majority of Clinical Trials are not designed for someone who is told they should get their papers in order.

I was committed to beat cancer. With the Cancer so advanced, I volunteered for an aggressive experimental treatment. On January 10, 2005, I began my first treatment. Through my six clinical trials and routine care, my journey was tough and painful at times. I had the best medical care from top physicians and nurses.

Not everyone with cancer can participate in a clinical trial. Clinical trials are not the best choice for every cancer patient. But every cancer patient who qualifies for a clinical trial and agrees with their provider that it is the best course of treatment should not be denied routine care by their insurer if they choose to participate.

I have attached my personal story about my cancer journey. Please take the time to read it. Then you will understand why I want everyone who faces cancer to have the peace of mind that they are not giving up their insurance coverage if they make the choice that I did to participate in a clinical trial.

My focus is that all have known someone who has fought cancer and without those who have done clinical trials before us, no one today would survive! Please protect the future of cancer survivors and their ability to choose to do trials. The life they save could be someone you love! When people would ask me why I would be a 'guinea pig', I responded "If it kills me, oh well I am dying anyway! If it curses me, we can pass it on to save others". With just standard treatment, they offered to make me as comfortable as possible and give me time to get my papers in order. Thankful that I could choose trials!

Please support SB55.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Wetzel
Montana Cancer Survivor